

#### REMARKS

Claims 1, 10, 20, 24 and 28 have been amended.

The Examiner has rejected applicants' claims 1-28 under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable based on the Takizawa, et al. and Lightbody, et al. patents taken in further view of the Sakoda, et al. patent. With respect to applicants' claims, as amended, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' independent claims 1, 10, 20, 24 and 28 have been amended to better define applicants' invention. In particular, according to the claimed invention, the color space of an image signal is converted in an image pickup apparatus in accordance with the color space characteristic of an external processing apparatus or display. The image signal is then transferred to the external apparatus or display, thus eliminating the necessity of transferring excessive information and hence improving the transfer efficiency.

Such a construction is completely different from the prior art systems in which an image signal is formed once in a pickup apparatus and then the image signal is transferred to an external apparatus or display where the color space is converted. More particularly, looking first at the Takizawa, et al. patent, this patent discloses an apparatus capable of having its digital signal processing, which controls its image processing, changed by an external apparatus. However, this patent fails to teach or suggest conversion of a color space characteristic.

The Lightbody, et al. patent similarly fails to teach

or suggest the use of plural kinds of color conversion means. The Sakoda, et al. patent, although disclosing the use of plural kinds of color conversion means, teaches nothing more than the structure for converting the color space inside a computer display monitor. This patent does not teach or suggest the conversion of a color space in an image pickup apparatus based on the color space characteristic of an external processing apparatus or display.


Therefore, even if an image pickup apparatus derived from the combined teachings of the Takizawa, et al. and the Lightbody, et al. patents is connected to the display of the Sakoda, et al. patent, the resultant structure would still perform the color space conversion in the display. This differs from applicants' claimed invention in which color space conversion occurs in the image pickup unit based on the color space characteristic of an external display or processing apparatus, and further makes it necessary to transfer a video signal containing excessive information to the display, resulting in wasteful information transfer.

It is submitted, therefore, that applicants' amended independent claims 1, 10, 20, 24 and 28, and their respective dependent claims, patentably distinguish over the combination of the Takizawa, et al. patent, the Lightbody, et. al. patent and the Sakoda, et al. patent.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicants' claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

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